

TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING - MONDAY EVENING - MAY 6, 2013

PRESENT: Parella, Calouro, Stuart, and Sweeney

ABSENT: Herreshoff

ALSO PRESENT: Antonio A. Teixeira, Town Administrator
Julie Goucher, Town Treasurer

The Council met in special session on Monday evening, May 6, 2013 in the Town Hall, Council Chambers, beginning at 7:34 o'clock PM, Council Chairman Parella presiding:

1. Interview/Appointment - Economic Development Commission (to fill unexpired term to expire September 2014)
 - a. Charles Cavalconte, 88 Church Street - interest/appointment (currently first alternate)

Councilman Stuart nominated Mr. Cavalconte for appointment.

There were no counter-nominations.

Stuart/Sweeney - Voted unanimously to close nominations and to instruct the Clerk to cast one ballot in favor of Mr. Cavalconte to fill the unexpired term with term to expire in September 2014 and to advertise the vacancy for two alternate members.

Prior to the vote taken, the Council interviewed Mr. Cavalconte who reported that he is currently an alternate member of the Commission and seeks to be promoted to full membership. He added that he is currently serving on the Explore Bristol group and on its Venues and Accommodations subcommittee.

Mr. Cavalconte reported that he is concerned about economic development and that the Town appears to be moving in a positive direction and needs a "listening section."

He suggested that there might be "summits" for boat builders, manufacturers, and landlords.

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Councilman Stuart agreed that the Town should have summits or "fairs" to bring the parties together.

Mr. Cavalconte informed the Council that he is enthusiastic and that one of his "life goals" is to help people to succeed.

Councilman Sweeney noted that Mr. Cavalconte is his next-door neighbor and that he is familiar with his interest in the community. He asked Mr. Cavalconte to react to the "bed problem" concerning the perceived lack of overnight accommodations in Bristol.

Mr. Cavalconte stated that the Town is in need of someone who is willing to "step up to the plate" regarding the lack of overnight accommodations. He recalled that the Town receives 4,000 parents for University functions and that the local boat builders often receive guests requiring hotel accommodations. He added that the Town now has accommodations for only 150 and that this serves a fraction of those in need of same.

Councilman Stuart asked to know if the Comprehensive Plan poses a problem to this. He added that franchises appear to be unwelcome.

Council Chairman Parella suggested that the Robin Rug might be the ideal location for a "boutique" hotel with Mr. Cavalconte suggesting that these accommodations might work well if they were designed to be seasonal and closed in the winter when less rooms are needed.

Council Chairman Parella agreed that the large building might be able to accommodate a "condominium section," a "retail section," and a "hotel section."

Mr. Cavalconte shared that the Hotel Providence is a boutique hotel and that there are conversations with that company's management regarding the needs identified in Bristol.

Councilman Calouro agreed that more hotel rooms are needed and asked to know if Mr. Cavalconte was aware of the impediments.

Mr. Cavalconte noted that the problem seems to be what will become of a hotel room on a "Tuesday in January."

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Council Chairman Parella stated that some areas offer "great deals" and "grouppons" to attract off season tourists. She added that those taking advantage of the reduced rates will often return in high season if they find something that they like.

It was noted that the Williams Grant Inn participated in this "groupon" program and "living social" in cooperation with area restaurants and that it seems to be successful.

Mr. Cavalconte reported that he believes that the Lou Hammond effort will result in a tourism increase.

Councilman Calouro asked to know what Mr. Cavalconte would do to find success if he possessed a "magic wand."

Mr. Cavalconte responded that he would remove the real estate and business offices from the downtown storefronts and replace these with retail shops and would relocate the Post Office to Gooding Avenue. He added that he agrees with earlier studies that parking is not really a problem.

He added that not enough appreciate the beauty of the Town and appreciate the availability of the many museums.

Councilman Stuart expressed concern that removal of the real estate offices, etc., could be construed as "zoning discrimination."

Council Chairman Parella agreed that the Town does not wish to discriminate and observed that the rents are quite high and that the offices can afford to pay the higher rents. She added that the "plus side" is that the merchants are doing good things and that there is much energy supporting a cohesive effort.

Councilman Stuart asked to know if the EDC is addressing the manufacturing issue with Mr. Cavalconte responding that this appears to be the "missing piece" in the local economy.

Council Chairman Parella suggested that the Explore Bristol effort should address manufacturing and asked Mr. Cavalconte what might be the best approach.

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Mr. Cavalconte responding that he believes the best approach is to have a "point person" who will be available to guide an interested party through the process.

Councilman Calouro stated that the Council did consider that approach. He added that it would be necessary to have a clear roadmap. He also added that it is not possible to address every eventuality. He also added that the website might be improved to provide information on opening a business and referring prospective business operators to a responsible person.

Council Chairman Parella stated that business entrepreneurs may need help with financing, also.

A discussion ensued regarding former Center for Economic Development Coordinator Alan Crisman with Council Chairman Parella asking to know if Mr. Crisman had a relationship with the EDC.

Mr. Cavalconte replied that he was not aware of a specific relationship between Mr. Crisman's office and the EDC. He stated that his contact is with Director of Community Development Williamson.

Councilman Calouro asked to know how Mr. Cavalconte views his role on the EDC with Mr. Cavalconte responding that he views himself as an enthusiastic voice who can bring people to the table and as a promoter of the Town's resources.

2. Adoption of Town Budget 2013-2014; Schedules "A," "B" and "C"

Calouro/Stuart - Voted unanimously to delete the duplicate line item entitled "Bristol Veterans Council" found in the Human Resources budget.

Prior to the vote taken, the Clerk reminded the Council that there was a duplicate entry in the Human Resources budget entitled "Bristol Veterans Council" which was already funded through the Municipal Observances budget in the line entitled "Veterans Holidays" as it has been traditionally. He noted that the Council deleted this amount during the budget deliberations but that it was

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inadvertently left in place when the Provisional budget was adopted.

After the vote taken, Council Chairman Parella called for a motion to approve the 2013-2014 Budget as amended. There was no motion.

Councilman Stuart asked to know where Councilman Herreshoff was with Council Chairman Parella reporting that Councilman Herreshoff was out of Town.

Councilman Calouro asked to know about the budget adoption with the Clerk explaining that the Council would adopt the budget today and that it would appear in the newspaper as adopted on Thursday according to the schedule.

A discussion ensued regarding the adoption of the budget with Council Chairman Parella informing the Council that the budget had already been "hashed over" sufficiently and that it was now time to adopt the budget and move on.

Stuart/Calouro - Voted unanimously
to recess at 8:00 o'clock PM.

Council Chairman Parella reconvened the meeting at 8:17 o'clock PM.

At this point in the meeting, Council Chairman Parella suggested and the Council agreed, that its honorable body might consider agenda item three (3) at this time noting that the Council would wait for a return telephone call from Assistant Solicitor Teitz.

It is hereby noted for the record that the discussion and action concerning this agenda item (agenda item 3) appears, in place, below.

Sweeney/Stuart - Voted unanimously
to continue this matter until the
meeting scheduled for May 15,
2013.

Prior to the vote taken, Assistant Solicitor Teitz noted that if the Council is unable to decide the budget final adoption the matter should be continued to a date certain.

The Clerk noted that the Charter specifies that the budget

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should be adopted according to a prescribed schedule and that today appears to be the deadline.

The provisions of the Charter were reviewed.

Assistant Solicitor Teitz advised the Council that since there was no "or else" clause that it would be possible to continue the matter toward resolution at a later date and that the Charter imposed deadline was "discretionary."

Assistant Solicitor Teitz also advised the Council that it would be possible to have its final vote at a regular Town Council meeting should it choose to do so.

Councilman Calouro stated that his opinion concerning the budget has not changed.

Council Chairman Parella asked to know if the issue concerning Councilman Calouro was the pay raise issue with Councilman Calouro responding affirmatively.

Councilman Stuart, too, stated that nothing has changed since his vote in opposition to the provisional budget.

Councilman Sweeney stated that he has questions concerning pay rates.

Town Treasurer Goucher noted that she would not be at the meeting of May 15. It was noted that May 15 would be used as a "control" date with the Council likely continuing the matter to a time when all of the parties could be present.

The Clerk agreed to contact the parties and provide a list of dates for consideration of the Budget and that the date and time for same will be set on May 15.

3. Resolution Authorizing Lease-Purchase of
Recycling Truck

It is hereby noted for the record that the discussion and action concerning this agenda item took place earlier in the meeting as noted above.

Calouro/Sweeney - Voted
unanimously to approve the
resolution as prepared and
presented, authorizing Town

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Administrator Teixeira to sign the lease on behalf of the Town.

Prior to the vote taken, Public Works Director Galuska reported that the R1 truck was out of service for three months and that it has a series of problems and is now utilized on a day to day basis and continues to fail. He added that it may be possible to utilize it as a spare truck for an additional year if the time used is "stretched out."

He also reported that he was able to find a high-quality demonstrator unit which is "ready to go" and that the current spare truck cannot exceed 30 MPH.

Council Chairman Parella asked to know if Public Works Director Galuska was recommending the lease with Public Works Director Galuska responding that he is and explained the conditions of same.

Councilman Calouro enquired, as liaison to the DPW, why the department was considering a lease of a demonstrator unit rather than a new vehicle with Public Works Director Galuska informing him that the Town will save \$13,000 and that the vehicle is essentially new.

Councilman Sweeney asked to know the location of the vehicle with Public Works Director Galuska responding that it is currently housed at the DPW and was acquired as a demonstrator unit on a short-term basis; he explained the function of the particular truck.

Councilman Calouro asked Town Treasurer Goucher if she has any concerns regarding the financial arrangement with Town Treasurer Goucher responding that this method has been utilized previously and that the funding is available.

Councilman Calouro asked to know the funds available and required with Town Treasurer Goucher noting that there was \$100,000 in the account and that the expense considered is \$33,000 per year.

Councilman Sweeney asked to know if there would be no pick-up if the Council did not approve the lease with Public Works Director Galuska reporting that he would be left with no option beyond continuing with the old trucks until these fail and that it is a logistical "nightmare."

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Council Chairman Parella asked to know if Town Administrator Teixeira was in favor of the lease with Town Administrator Teixeira responding that he is in favor of the lease.

There being no further business, upon a motion by Councilman Calouro, seconded by Councilman Stuart and voted unanimously, the Chairman declared this meeting to be adjourned at 8:41 o'clock PM.

Louis P. Cirillo, CMC
Council Clerk